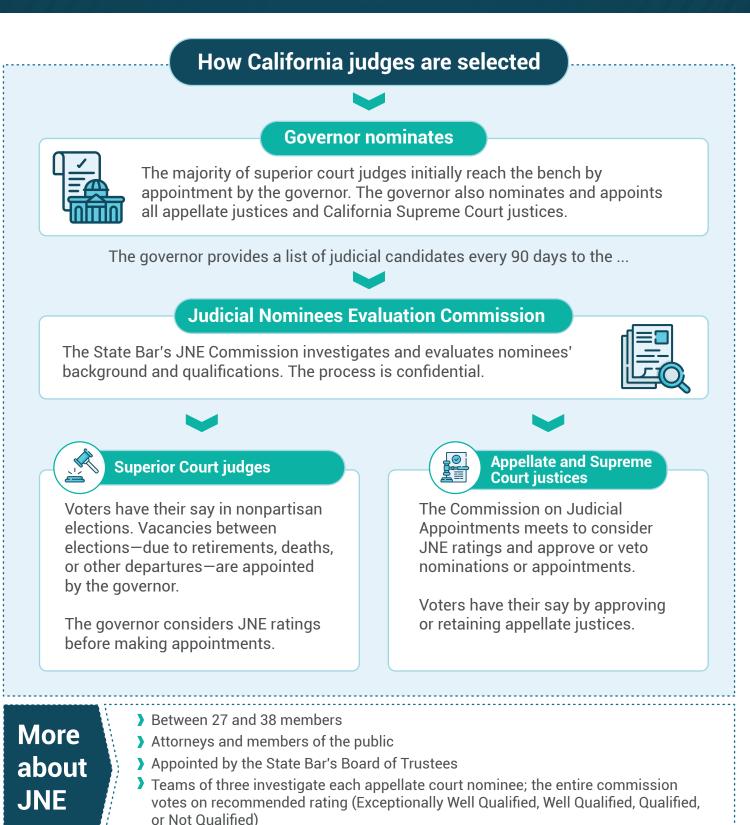




If nonattorneys always vote on evaluations for California appellate justices, **must they also participate on every investigation team?**

Or would more flexible rules help fill vacancies faster?





How it is now

Right now there are 14 openings in California for appellate justices, and more are expected as justices retire this year. Filling those openings as quickly as possible helps our courts run efficiently.

For nominees to the California Courts of Appeal, State Bar Rule 7.40 requires that the JNE Commission assign a public member to each investigator team. The commission currently has a limited number of public members, which limits how many nominees can be investigated in any 90-day cycle.

What change is proposed and why

The State Bar is proposing to amend Rule 7.40 to allow the commission to assign teams to investigate appellate court candidates without a public member if necessary. Public members would continue to be assigned to each team whenever possible. And public members would still vote on evaluations of all candidates. This proposal would give the commission flexibility to consider more candidates in the short term, so that court vacancies can be filled as quickly and efficiently as possible. Meanwhile, the State Bar is actively seeking and recruiting more public members to serve on all of its committees and commissions, including the JNE Commission.



Please click here to provide your comments

Comments due by July 7, 2022.

